

The Liberator

Devoted to the Cause of Good Government and the Advancement of the Afro-American.

VOL. VII.

LOS ANGELES, CAL., SEPT. 1905.

No. 10



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Rev. Robert J. Burdette pays a Tribute to the Negro.

**Says the Educated Negro
Can Do Something Be-
sides Sing.**

THE BAPTIST WORLD CONGRESS.

Rev. Robert J. Burdette, in his comments on Baptist World Congress, while taking exceptions to a colored delegate's reference to the difference between the treatment the American negro receives at home and that he receives in England, the Doctor paid the American Negro a splendid tribute. If he had called to mind the manner in which the colored delegates were treated who attended the Methodist World Conference held in this city last year, he would perhaps have considered exceptions groundless. Although the delegates last mentioned constituted a body of as distinguished ministers and educators as ever visited this city, the white hotels would not give them so much as a cup of cold water by way of accommodation, for no other reason than that their skins were dark. This, too, in the city the home of the Doctor's church—a city that boasts of its churches and institutions of learning. No one gets more discomfort out of the fact that the American Negro gentleman is treated as such, only when in foreign lands than he does. After paying tribute to Henry Ward Beecher's great work in England in the sixties, Rev. Burdette speaks of the colored man and brother as follows:

Two Sides of a "Friendship."

This, and other scenes of the 'Sixties came back to me very vividly one other night, when one of the colored brethren saw fit to praise our cousins of England as the people of the land where a man was judged by his mind and soul rather than by the color of his skin. He made his point at the expense of his American brethren and was rewarded by a triple wave of applause, hearty and long continued. I didn't object to the colored brother expressing his gratitude for welcome which the English brethren gave him and his. But it did seem to me that his gratitude need not have slapped at his American brethren. For I, sitting on the platform with him, had been a Union soldier. And I remembered very well, that while my comrades and myself were willingly and gladly risking our lives on Southern battlefields that he and his people might be free, if the English government had had its way at that time, this colored brother, instead of sitting on the platform at the Baptist World's

Congress, side by side with Dr. Prestidge, a peer of all the other delegates, would have been bending his broad back under an overseer's whip on a Georgia cotton plantation. Our negro brethren were present with all good will and good welcome, as delegates to the Baptist World's Congress. But they were not there by the grace of the "Alabama." It costs a great deal to send these free colored Baptist delegates to this Congress. It cost millions of money, and thousands of lives—it cost a scourge of flame and steel and blood. They were and are worth it. The freedom of the people is worth all that it can cost. But "Codlin" isn't their only friend. "Punch" had never a word of appreciation, much less praise, for Abraham Lincoln, until neither praise nor censure could please or pain him. These are not pleasant memories, but when some of our brethren forget these things, some of the rest of us have to remember them. I am sincerely glad that the English people are so kind to our negroes. And with all sincerity do I hope that some day they will be just as kind to their own—they have a few in their new South Africa possessions.—so kind indeed, that they will permit them to buy land with their own money, and own it in fee simple, and hold it, which at present they do not permit. We all have our own little problems, beloved. And we are too apt to be more gracious to visitors than we are to members of the family.

The American Negro.

There were about fifty colored delegates from the United States in attendance upon the congress, and the English people gave them the time of their lives. No troublesome questions of where to find entertainment for the American negro. No hunting for some little harmless nook near the tail of the programme where a careful colored speaker might be trusted, with caution-arm coaching, to make a few feeble and nebulous remarks on some non-committal topic. No, indeed! The best was none too good for the African delegate, minister or layman, himself, his wife and children. Prejudice against him in England? They gave him the center of the stage and the limelight, with bouquets and encores to gladden the heart of any man. And, to his everlasting credit be it said, that with one or two exceptions, for which his color was in nowise responsible, the American negro filled the place they gave him gracefully, tactfully, sensibly. If he was grateful for the favors shown him, and the cordiality with which everywhere he was greeted his gratitude was manly and independent, and he accepted these attentions as his right as a regularly accredited delegate to the Baptist Congress. Their singing carried the congress by storm. So did their speaking, for that matter. The educated negro can do something besides sing.

England's South African policy, like our Southern Negro policy, after which it was doubtless fashioned, is a foul blot on her history. It is a fact, however, that cannot be denied, that no English subject would be denied accommodations in England on account of his or her color, while the American Negro is "jim crowed" in Washington City as bad as he is in Mississippi. Although 200,000 Negro soldiers aided Rev. Burdette and others to save the country, the ten million negro citizens who have always been loyal to the flag have been surrendered to the men who tried to destroy it and are today the victims of the most cruel and relentless persecution ever visited upon a defenseless people. But Dr. Burdette, like many other good white men, cannot remember wrongs perpetrated upon Negroes and becomes impatient when a Negro with a retentive memory dares to plead for justice—for a man's chance.

SOUTHERN WHITE GENTLEMEN STEALING EACH OTHERS VOTES.

Every now and then out of curiosity to see what new scheme the Southern statesmen have under way to further humiliate and dehumanize the negroes, we buy a Southern daily paper. As the readers of those papers have no interest in the tariff and railroad rate legislation, the Panama Canal, the Equitable scandal, and other matters uppermost in the minds of the voters of other sections of the country, we rarely ever seek information on these subjects in the aforesaid papers. We have become so accustomed to finding nothing in them but "nigger," "nigger," "nigger," and Booker Washington and his dinners, that we were dumfounded by finding an editorial in the Commercial-Appeal of Memphis, Tenn., calling upon Judge Moss of that city to stop one gang of white men from stealing the votes of the others. Having disfranchised the Negro, they are now disfranchising each other.

The negro was not overlooked for the leading article on the front page was the announcement **The Blood Hounds Have Come**, Sheriff Owens of Tunica county, Miss., having brought his hounds over to chase down some Negroes to be lynched. Of course that will create as much agreeable excitement as the President's bear killing did in Colorado.

Judge Moss' Charge.

"The Court intends to see, gentlemen, and I want to emphasize it, that a fair and honest election is held in this city in November; and the Court will instruct the Sheriff, and does now instruct him, to see that the law is carried out. Politics must in no way interfere with this, and you must see to it that it is not permitted to do so. A free ballot and a fair count are the foundation of a good government, and the purity of the ballot box must and

shall be preserved at all hazards."

After reading the statutes relating to this matter, His Honor continued:

"This Court will guard with a jealous eye the purity of the ballot box, and the Court is assured that the Attorney-General will do his duty in assisting the Court in the proper punishment of all violations of the law in this regard; and that the Sheriff and his deputies will do their duty in carrying out the law in November."

The Court pronounced against playing baseball on Sunday, directing the Grand Jury to find out whether the law was being broken in this regard, and if so to bring offenders to punishment.

The Commercial-Appeal comments editorially in part as follows:

"This is a healthy utterance. It is the most significant that Judge Moss has given expression to in a long time. Within the few brief words quoted above can be found lurking a determination that the city of Memphis shall be freed from a stigma that has clung with uncomfortable closeness to the voters who direct the affairs of the city. There is a great deal in this promise of Judge Moss. It has been a common saying of late—"what is the use of voting, my vote won't be counted." There is the assurance in his instructions to Sheriff Monteverde that the vote will be counted, for Sheriff Monteverde is as fearless in carrying out the instructions of the Criminal Court as Judge Moss is in giving them.

Nothing that has happened recently gives more encouragement to the great body of the voting public as yesterday's declaration. Memphis is a great and growing city, and every man with a spark of ambition is working along a common way to make it the greatest city in the South, but every election has added weight. There have been assaults at the polls, there have been charges and counter charges of stealing ballots, there have been false counts and a red record of destroyed votes.

The entire matter has been a stench in the nostrils of the community and the statement of Judge Moss that he will see that there is an honest election in November, and his instructions to Sheriff Monteverde to take such steps as may be necessary to prevent fraud, comes as a refreshing breath of air. The more conservative citizens had intended to take steps of some character to make such a thing possible, but Judge Moss, radical and severe in this as in other things, has taken the initiative. There were those yesterday who heard of the charge and who shrugged their shoulders with that suggestive indication of doubt, but those close in touch with the court said that he was never more in earnest and that his word and his instructions to the Sheriff were a sufficient guarantee that he had passed from beyond all clutch or hold of politicians.

The charge taken literally is the

most encouraging evidence of a better political regime than the people of Memphis have yet received.

He says further:

Memphis in the past has been a city sadly ridden. There are a series of smutty pages in the history of the city which future generations will read with regret. Eminent leaders in the affairs of the city in times past have promised great things in the way of honest elections, but have accomplished little, and there is a black stain attached to the record of so many past elections that it is only with regret that the matter is now mentioned."

The above from the C. A. must be humiliating to its editor. As a citizen of Tumca county, Miss., we remember when that journal made heroes of every lyncher and ballot box thief. The C. A.'s editor labored under the delusion that a thief is a respecter of persons. One set of white men have got all the offices and keep them, by practicing upon the hungry outs what all of them formerly practiced upon the negroes.

The Commercial's pupils have outwitted their teacher.

JEFF DAVIS HOOTED DOWN. The Governor of Arkansas Sells a Pardon.

Special to the Commercial Appeal.

Ozark, Ark., Sept. 19.—The climax of the political battle between Gov. Jeff Davis and Attorney-General Rogers was reached here today when the two candidates engaged in the most bitter and personal debate that has marked the campaign up to the present time.

Charges and counter-charges were hurled back and forth, each man addressing himself directly to the other and daring him to deny the accusations.

Governor Davis devoted more than half an hour to an arraignment of the Attorney-General, then announced that he would not refer to the latter again during the campaign.

Mr. Rogers declined to be disposed of in that manner, however, and announced that while he had been forced into the fight to protect himself, he had only started, and intended to present proof of his charges against Governor Davis.

The most remarkable demonstration occurred during Mr. Rogers' speech, when Governor Davis tried to interrupt him with a question. The crowd hooted the governor down, and only permitted the governor to proceed at Mr. Rogers' request. Governor Davis apparently had a large part of the crowd with him while he was speaking, but the Rogers men came to the front later, and when the attorney-general had spoken for a short time he had aroused the crowd to a high pitch of enthusiasm.

Congressman John S. Little, who is a candidate for governor, spoke this morning, and Hon. W. F. Kirby, can-

didate for attorney-general, followed.

In the afternoon Governor Davis and General Rogers were the speakers. The governor exhibited a note showing that General Rogers had borrowed \$450 and that one of the indorsers was M. D. L. Cook. The governor endeavored to make much capital out of this, and said he had ordered the note lithographed, and would distribute 50,000 copies of it over the state.

His Life Is Pure.

"I have no dark chapter in my life such as to force me to threaten to kill a man who tells it," declared Governor Davis. "Rogers came to my office and jumped on my private secretary—a cowardly act. He knew that if I had been there I would have whipped him like a dog. I want to tell him that he had better not come to my office. Now I dismiss Mr. Rogers."

The crowd yelled its appreciation when the governor faced the attorney-general in a dramatic manner on several occasions.

When the governor concluded there were calls for Rogers, and he was loudly cheered when he was introduced. Mr. Rogers spoke in a more quiet manner than his opponent, but at times defied him to deny his accusations. He read a letter from Dave Young, a Hot Springs saloonkeeper, who declares that Governor Davis promised to pardon him of fines amounting to \$1600 and costs, but that the governor had told him to keep the matter off until after the election. Young claims that he afterwards gave \$150 to a party for Davis to pay life insurance with. This was 18 months ago. Since then, a few weeks ago, the money was repaid to him.

Referring to the charge, Governor Davis made against him, General Rogers said: "These charges are false, as false as false can be, and the accuser knows it from the bottom of his heart. What does Governor Davis know about the penitentiary? He never attends the board meetings. I charge him with violating his oath of office when he fails to attend the meetings."

General Rogers repeated his Forrest City explanation of the Cook note. He declared that he had never accepted a gift or donation to conduct his campaign.

It will be remembered that Governor Davis was expelled from the Baptist church for immorality some years ago, but that did not defeat him for re-election. The governor and his attorney-general are charging each other with gross breaches of honor. What a howl would go up if they were negroes? It would be proof of the negroes' unfitness for anything but slaves.

THE LIBERATOR.

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Jeff L. Edmonds, Jr., Assistant Editor.

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Write only on one side of your paper. Published monthly at Los Angeles. Office 218 West Sixth Street. Editor's address, Sawtelle, Cal. Telephone Home 4634.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT?

There are scores of colored families in this city owning homes representing a money value of \$1500 to \$4000. Aside from furnishing them a place to eat and sleep, they yield no income whatever, the owner being compelled each day to seek employment of others, leaving his children to the street and evil associations that are sure to lead to a life of crime. Now if the homes in question were turned into cash which can be easily done, the owners could purchase from three to five acres of land just outside the city limits on one of the inter-urban car lines. With money named, each purchaser could pay cash for his land, and build suitable cottages and immediately become self-supporting. Such a place devoted to the production of vegetables would not only furnish pleasant and healthful employment to a family of from four to eight persons, but furnish the means for properly educating the children of such a family, with something to spare. The experience and practical knowledge the children would gain by such training would be of inestimable value to them in after life. If each child is given a small piece of land to cultivate, allowing him or her to put the money

made from sales in the bank to their own credit, they would discover in a short time that they could employ themselves at better wages than any one else is willing to give them. The lessons thus learned in money-making and self-employment would soon lead to the combination of capital, the creating and handling of large business enterprises. If our suggestion was taken it would only be a short time before this property would come into the city, realizing for the owners' small fortunes, and the business experience gained by the children would enable them to profitably handle the fortunes that would certainly fall to them.

TWO NOBLE WOMEN GONE.

It is with sincere regret that we chronicle the deaths of Mesdames C. C. Flint and L. C. Young, which occurred in this city on the 22d and 23d respectively. The high standing of their husbands as leaders placed them in positions where they could and did render valuable service in upbuilding the race. Than Mrs. Flint no nobler woman ever lived. Possessing a sweet and retiring disposition, ever ready to aid any good cause, she was universally loved and is sincerely mourned by all who had the good fortune to know her.

Two noble women have joined each other in the home of the great and good. Peace to their ashes.

A BRUTAL MURDER.

The killing of Mr. Godfrey on Labor day was brutal in the extreme. The verdict of the coroner's jury was the strongest inducement to the commission of more such crimes ever given in this section. The charge that Godfrey was drunk cuts no figure whatever. He had whipped the man that insulted him, and was leaving the scene as best he could when knocked down and killed by a murderer, with whom he had no difficulty. If the killing of Godfrey was justifiable on the ground that he was drunk then any murderously inclined person can knock down and kill on our streets any drunk he meets. Admitting that the fall killed him, who caused him to fall? The negroes will learn from Godfrey's fate that while they have a perfect right to join labor organizations, the safest way to take part in a Labor day parade is from a second-story window. Individually, the men composing that jury may be all right, but collectively they are unfit for such service.

Elsewhere in these columns will be found comments by Rev. Robert J. Burdette on the part the Negro played in the Baptist World Congress held in London, England, during the past summer. It is needless to state that the

article will be read with interest. Next month we will give the Southern view as set forth by Rev. A. W. Bealer of Cartersville, Ga. Than he, no baser hypocrite ever stood in pulpit. What a pity, a great noble soul like Doctor Burdette had to associate on terms of equality with malevolent little spirits like Bealer and Dixon.

KEEP THE SIDEWALKS CLEAR.

It seems as if a gang of hoodlums insist on making the sidewalks and steps of our churches their headquarters for smoking cigarettes and the discussion of unclean subjects. It is embarrassing for ladies to come to church unaccompanied, especially in the evening, when they have to push their way through a crowd of loud-mouthed dudes and cigarette fiends before they can get into the church. If these hoodlums have no more respect for the church than to hang around their steps and sidewalks disturbing their meetings and annoying the pedestrians, the churches out of respect for themselves ought to call on the police, if necessary, and make these future jail-birds and convicts move on.

LADIES SHOULD REMOVE THEIR HATS.

The trustees of Wesley Chapel will hereafter insist on the ladies removing their hats during the services. This rule should be adopted by all of our churches if it has not been already. Wearing hats by ladies in public assemblies is, in but a few instances, a custom of the past, and in those instances where they are worn they are certainly annoying and it is nothing short of an imposition of which women ought not knowingly to be guilty.

The Broadway Department Store's annual fall opening eclipsed all former openings. The crowd packed Broadway and Fourth almost to suffocation for a block away. Taken all in all it surpassed anything of the kind ever witnessed in the city.

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THE NIAGARA MOVEMENT.

What is the Niagara Movement? The Niagara Movement is an organization composed at present of 54 men resident in 18 states of the United States. These men having common aspirations have banded themselves together into one organization. This organization was perfected at a meeting held at Buffalo, N. Y., July 11, -- and 13, 1905, and was called "The Niagara Movement." The present membership, which of course we hope to enlarge as we find others of like thought and ideal, consists of ministers, lawyers, editors, business men and teachers. The honor of founding the organization belongs to F. L. McGhee, who first suggested it; C. E. Bentley, who planned the method of organization and W. M. Trotter, who put the backbone into the platform.

The organization is extremely simple and is designed for effective work. Its officers are a general secretary and treasurer, a series of state secretaries and a number of secretaries of specific committees. Its membership in each state constitutes the state organization under the state secretary.

Other persons it seeks to convert to its way of thinking; it respects their opinion, but believes thoroughly in its own. This the world teaches us is the way of progress.

What the Niagara Movement Proposes to Do—Platform of Principles.

What now are the principles upon which the membership of the Niagara movement are agreed? As set forth briefly in the constitution, they are as follows:

- (a) Freedom of speech and criticism.
- (b) An unfettered and unsubsidized press.
- (c) Manhood suffrage.
- (d) The abolition of all caste distinctions based simply on race and color.
- (e) The recognition of the principle of human brotherhood as a practical present creed.
- (f) The recognition of the highest and best training as the monopoly of no class or race.
- (g) A belief in the dignity of labor.
- (h) United effort to realize these ideals under wise and courageous leadership.

All these things we believe are of great and instant importance; there has been a determined effort in this country to stop the free expression of opinion among black men; money has been and is being distributed in considerable sums to influence the attitude of certain Negro papers; the principles of democratic government are losing ground, and caste distinctions are growing in all directions. Human brotherhood is spoken of today with a smile and a sneer; effort is being made to curtail the educational opportunities of the Colored children; and while much is said about money-making, not enough is said about efficient, self-sac-

rificing toil of head and hand. Are not all these things worth striving for? The Niagara Movement proposes to gain these ends. All this is very well, answers the objector, but the ideals are impossible of realization. We can never gain our freedom in this land. To which we reply: We certainly cannot unless we try.

Ceaseless Agitation, Exposure of Wrongs Unerring Way to Liberty.

If we expect to gain our rights by nerveless acquiescence in wrong, then we expect to do what no other nation ever did. What must we do then? We must complain. Yes, plain, blunt complaint, ceaseless agitation, unflinching exposure of dishonesty and wrong—this is the ancient, unerring way to liberty, and we must follow it. I know the ears of the American people have become very sensitive to Negro complaints of late and profess to dislike whining. Let that worry none. NO NATION ON EARTH EVER COMPLAINED AND WHINED SO MUCH AS THIS NATION HAS, and we propose to work. These are the things that we as black men must try to do:

Need of Work—Things to be Done.

- To press the matter of stopping the curtailment of our political rights.
- To urge negroes to vote intelligently and effectively.
- To push the matter of civil rights.
- To organize business co-operation.
- To build school-houses and increase the interest in education.
- To open up new avenues of employment and strengthen our hold of the old.
- To distribute tracts and information in regard to the laws of health.
- To bring negroes and labor unions into mutual understanding.
- To study negro history.
- To increase the circulation of honest, unsubsidized newspapers and periodicals.
- To attack crime among us by all civilized agencies. In fact, to do all in our power by word or deed to increase the efficiency of our race. The enjoyment of its manhood, rights and the performance of its just duties.

The statement of the principles and purposes of the Niagara Movement must meet the approval of all justice and liberty loving citizens irrespective of race or color. It will not, of course, have the approval of many Negro office-seekers, who would sacrifice their race and everything else for office. And certain white men whose chief desire is to so restrict the Negro's rights as to reduce him to a condition worse than slavery, will raise their favorite howl about negroes wanting social equality. This has usually been sufficient to frighten the average white man to silence like unto death. This old howl about social equality will not deter any manly Negro from contending for the rights guaranteed him by the Federal Constitution. The Negro is an American citizen and will enjoy

his rights as such, only by a manly contention. We have contended from the start that this "say nothing, do nothing" policy on the part of the negro while his rights were being swept away, could lead to nothing but irreparable disaster. The Negro is an American citizen entitled to every right enjoyed by other citizens, for him to be satisfied with less will ultimately end in the loss of all. What the Negro must contend for is the same civil rights, the same education and the same opportunity enjoyed by white men—equality before the law, equality of opportunity.

AN UNKNOWN NEGRO HERO PREVENTS FRIGHTFUL WRECK IN MISSISSIPPI.

WAYNESBORO, Miss., Sept. 19.—

An unknown negro prevented a frightful wreck on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad near here today. The railroad telegraph operator at this point received orders for fast passenger train No. 4 to meet the south-bound local at Boyce, six miles north of Waynesboro. The operator in his hurry forgot to deliver the order and the fast train went through Boyce like a cannon ball. An unknown negro happened to be at the turning point of a sharp curve and saw both trains approaching each other at the rate of fifty miles an hour. Standing in the middle of the track, he began signalling both trains and the engineers being attracted by his wild gesticulations, applied the air brakes. Both trains were stopped just in the nick of time, the engines being only three feet apart when they were brought to a stop. After saving the two trains the negro disappeared in the woods without giving his name. The railroad operator at Waynesboro immediately resigned by telegraph.

WESLEY CHAPEL LITERARY SOCIETY.

The literary department of the Epworth League, of which Mr. J. H. Stephens is President, held its first meeting in the new church on the 19th inst. The audience was served with a very good programme, which consisted of vocal and instrumental selections, a paper, "The Success of the Negro," by Miss Moore, and a debate, "Resolved, That foreign immigration should be further restricted." The debaters were Mr. Jas. A. Warren and Emanuel Hall in the affirmative, and Mr. J. H. Stephens and Mrs. W. H. Stoval in the negative. The arguments being fair on both sides, the judges decided it was a tie. Mr. Jas. A. Warren, one of the debaters, is a valuable addition to our literary and church workers. He graduated from one of our Southern colleges last summer and is also a brother to Mr. Elis N. Warren, who is well known and respected in our community.

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